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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/498,549	02/02/2000	George King	1996P07613US05
Response To Office Action			EXAMINER
			Qureshi, Afser M.
ART UNIT	PAGE NUMBER		
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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination external to a switch in a central office, the method comprising:

acquiring the digital data call on the subscriber line at at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module;

terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line at the acquiring digital line unit, remote line termination unit, remote data terminal, subscriber line interface circuit, or digital subscriber line module; and

routing the digital data call to the destination on a channel external to the switch and bypassing the switch.

33-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising:

assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and
associating the call with the subscriber line.

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38. (Previously presented) An apparatus for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination external to a switch in a central office, the apparatus comprising:

a line termination unit connected to the subscriber line, where the line termination unit comprises at least one of a digital line unit, a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module, the line termination unit further comprising means for acquiring and terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line; and

a channel for routing the digital data call from the termination unit to the destination, where the channel is external to the switch and bypasses the switch.

39. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 further comprising:

means for assigning a logical identifier to the digital data call; and
means for associating the call with the subscriber line.

40. (Cancelled)

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41. (Previously presented) A method for routing a digital data call received on a subscriber line to a destination external to a switch in a central office, the method comprising:

acquiring the digital data call on the subscriber line at a location remote from the central office at least one of a remote line termination unit, a remote data terminal, a subscriber line interface circuit, or a digital subscriber line module;

terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line at the location remote from the central office at the acquiring remote line termination unit, remote data terminal, subscriber line interface circuit, or digital subscriber line module, the step of terminating comprising converting the digital data call to a digital data stream; and

routing the digital data call to the destination on a channel external to the switch and bypassing the switch.

42. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 32 where:

the step of acquiring the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises the acquiring the call at a location remote from the central office; and

the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises terminating the call at the location remote from the central office.

43. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 42 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

44. (Previously presented) A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

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45. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 where the means for means for acquiring and terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises means for acquiring and terminating the call at a location remote from the central office.

46. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 45 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.

47. (Previously presented) An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 where the step of terminating the digital data call on the subscriber line comprises converting the digital data call to a digital data stream.